

# Oregon says no to wetland redefinition

Chalk up another one for our un-environmental president. In his latest venture, George Bush and his myopic administration plan to reduce wetland protection to appease land developers and farmers — a move Oregon will have no part of.

Revisions are designed to redefine wetlands as they appear in a 1989 standard, and the result could drop one-third of the nation's 100 million acres from the protected list. Oregon would stand to lose 30 to 50 percent of its wetlands.

But the state's Division of State Lands will ignore the proposed changes because of the large potential land loss and possible confusion for property owners, according to Ken Bierly, Division Wetlands program manager.

At least someone has sense enough to reject a proposal that was launched in reaction to developer and agriculturist opposition to lands that qualified under the original wetland definitions.

The changes come not from a committee of experts who are upgrading the original scientific-based standard, but from a political group whose bumbling efforts to satisfy the elitist norm prevail.

The group's name and leader? The President's Council on Competitiveness, directed by Vice President Dan Quayle.

Bad enough this crucial policy-breaking council is led by Quayle; bleaker yet, this crew was given the right to redraw wetland defining lines not according to scientific fact, but economic and political persuasion.

Someone better take this group's crayons away before they do some serious damage.

This council has no business meddling in what should be scientific affairs. Wetlands are valuable ecosystems, acting as natural sponges and water filters as well as breeding and sustaining grounds for countless numbers of animals and plants.

But this isn't the first time financial gain and profit won out against environment in this country.

Two recent examples:

- U.S. officials recently refused to participate in the international reduction of carbon dioxide emissions — the main gas thought to cause global warming.
- The administration's recent creation of the "God Squad" to override the Endangered Species Act so that logging of old growth timber in the Northwest may continue.

This decision to sacrifice the environment in the face of political and economic pressure once again shows this country's weak-kneed decision-making priority: monetary instant gratification.

America's ruling body doesn't seem to understand that our almighty economic system is based in the natural world. The operation of every "progressive" toy, from industry to vehicle, depends on natural resources.

If administration officials are truly concerned about our economic well-being, they need to begin thinking in terms of the gift horse; it's in our best interest to protect its long-term survival.

There's no room or excuse for declining wetland protection. Our existence is intertwined with and dependent on these and all natural areas; they deserve our undivided attention.

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## LETTERS

### Born that way

Are homosexuals "born that way?" The media has directed considerable attention toward some preliminary research which implies that possibility. It's a notion that homosexuals desiring to legitimize their sexual habits want you to believe, but in fact, that suggestion has a conflict with biological truths.

By definition, homosexuals may apply their sexuality to recreation, but not to procreation. Obviously, a non-reproducing gene pool would quickly eliminate itself. Certainly over the eons required to rationalize the theory of evolution, homosexuality would be totally erased. Therefore, the theory of evolution (as well as the basic laws of biological science) leaves only one way remaining to propagate homosexuality: active recruitment.

Militant out-of-the-closet homosexuals don't want you to recognize this fact. It would make it harder for them to "reproduce" their next generation by blatantly penetrating our society with their familyphobic agenda.

Evolution versus genetically-predisposed homosexuality; at least one of these theories is false.

This leaves a dilemma for those claiming that practicing homosexuals are powerless to change since they are "born that way." If they abandon their faith to evolution, that demands creation — and a Creator. A Creator who has the wisdom to define the limits of sexual behavior.

On the other hand, if they admit there is no genetic predisposition toward homosexuality,

that leaves the perpetuation of homosexual activity completely to free choice.

Jon Wollander  
Eugene

### Angered

As African-American students here at the University, we are deeply concerned and angered with the *Oregon Daily Emerald's* lack of professionalism and the increase of racial insensitivity that the *Emerald* has shown toward we African-American students.

Most recently, the *Emerald* printed a political cartoon (Oct. 1) that we feel blatantly perpetuated a racial stereotype toward African-Americans. We feel that there is absolutely no excuse for such ignorance and racism. It is for these reasons that we are making the following demands of the *Emerald*:

- The *Emerald* takes a step to overcome its ignorance by incorporating racial sensitivity into its journalistic duties.
- The *Emerald* aggressively recognize more African-American activities as being newsworthy in order to more accurately reflect the University community as being diverse.
- The *Emerald* editing staff recognize it as not only their professional but personal, and more so, ethical responsibility for what they allow to be published.
- The *Emerald* staff guarantee to us that such racial insensitivity in their reporting in all aspects will not occur again without direct action being taken to guarantee that we have an *Emerald* staff that will serve the needs of us as students.

We as African-American students demand that the *Oregon*

*Daily Emerald* uphold its journalistic responsibilities and professionalism, and finally realize that their purpose is to report the news in a socially responsible manner.

If these expectations and demands cannot be met, we as African-American fee-paying students will institute a change.

Lisa Lawrence, Black Student Union director, and other concerned members

### New right

It's about time! I hope there are more conservatives out there like William Gaskill (*ODE*, Oct. 3) and myself, people who believe that the Constitution was intended to benefit white, heterosexual males.

I come from a small town in eastern Oregon and was raised to believe in traditional American values. However, I must admit, Eugene has changed me: I live in sin with my girlfriend. We still try to be morally upstanding, however; especially when it comes to protecting and defending the lives of the innocent (the unborn).

We both believe that life does not start at birth. Instead, we are biological determinists who believe that a person is already formed before birth. Following through on this belief, we try and preserve as much life as possible: Each month, my girlfriend ovulates, and each month, she saves the egg in a test tube. For my part, I save all my sperm in a test tube, also.

We feel it would be un-Christian to deny the right to life to these precious organisms. We hope there are many more out there who feel as we do.

Matt Emrich  
Political Science

